



# Sustainable Operations

*Creating Habits Today, Conserving Resources for Tomorrow*

## Sustainable Operations Partnership



# Green Team Program Guide

Developed by the Intergovernmental  
Internship Cooperative (IIC), the Dixie National  
Forest and Zion National Park

## Green Team Program



The IIC Sustainable Operations Partnership (or SOP) is made up of agencies, universities, and community organizations. Some of these include the National Park Service, the Dixie National Forest, Southern Utah University and the Southern Utah Recycling Coalition (SURC). Together we are trying to integrate strategies toward sustainability in our region. As part of this effort we want to help local schools establish recycling programs called Green Teams.

We want to work with each school to customize the Green Team program to fit their individual needs. We can provide services such as a program guide, curriculum, recycling materials and educational outreach through class and school assemblies, as well as community events. These will be based on agency resources and individual school needs. We will try to tailor the program to meet the different needs of the five school districts.

The five school districts in Southern Utah include Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington. We hope to work with Superintendents, Principals, parents and PTA's to establish recycling programs in as many schools as possible. We realize that each district/school may have different requirements for establishing these programs so the SOP hopes to be able to provide information and guidance to help with each district/school's unique situation.

The Sustainable Operations Partnership (SOP) is always available and ready to help with any questions, concerns or needs, please see our website for additional information at [www.southernutahsop.org](http://www.southernutahsop.org) under the topics tab/education and outreach.

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## Program Guide

- Schools interested in participating will receive a vinyl thermometer poster from the SOP with corresponding fun visuals so the children may see and track the results of their efforts.
- Schools will be responsible for obtaining recycling bins. The SOP can provide guidance as to where these can be found free of charge.
- Classrooms will need to have a container for paper collection and “Green Team” hall passes for the children to use when dumping the collected classroom paper into the bins. (The SOP can help provide these materials)
- Green Team leaders at each school will need to figure out how to get approximate weights each week from what is being recycled and figure out how to get the recycling to the appropriate drop off area.
- The SOP will work with schools and local recycling companies to figure out the most efficient ways to remove the recycling.
- Schools will need to come up with incentive programs to keep kids interested and engaged. Keeping track of the weight and using the thermometer is just one way.
- Emphasis should focus on the importance of recycling, thus teaching kids to care for their environment and save resources. SURC Lesson Plans for students K-8 are available using the concepts of recycling, conservation, and sustainability to



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teach skills and principles outlined in the Utah Core Curriculum. These materials are available on the SOP website under the Topic of Education and Outreach.

<http://www.southernutahsop.org>

## Southern Utah Recycling Companies:

Five County Recycling (FCR) in Kanab, is a full service recycling center that collects, sorts, bales and ships commodity in the surrounding areas. FCR is committed to educating the public on recycling and bringing together resources to continually improve recycling efforts. FCR will accept paper, cardboard, plastic and metal from schools.

Representatives from schools will be responsible for getting the recycling to FCR. For more information see their website at: <http://www.fivecountyrecycling.com/>

Rocky Mountain Recycling in St. George is a leading-edge recycling company that provides a range of innovative services including recycling dumpsters throughout the St. George area. These dumpsters are available for schools in the St. George area. Call JR at 435-628-9626 or see their website at: <http://rockymountainrecycling.com/>

Virgin Valley Recycling in Hurricane recycles computers and electronics including cell phones, printers, flat screen TVs and much more. Free pick up and drop off options are available: <http://www.virginvalleyrecycling.com/>

Washington County Binnies provide public drop off locations for paper, plastic, metal and glass at over 50 sites in Washington and Iron Counties; you can find more information at: <http://www.wcsw.org/recycling/>

Mosdell Sanitation in Cedar City will recycle cardboard for schools; call Greg for more information at 435-586-8823

Robinson Recycling in Cedar City will recycle aluminum and tin lunchroom cans and pay schools cash back! Call Patrick for more information: 435-590-6990

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# Sustainable Operations

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See the Southern Utah Sustainable Operations Website <http://southernutahsop.org> for updated information on recycling options available for schools in this region. Please contact the SOP with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your schools recycling.

## Additional Information and Ideas:

Litehouse Foods in Hurricane Utah will provide 55 gallon barrels at no cost to any school interested. These bins can be decorated and used for school recycling bins. Contact Matt Hansen 435-634-6872 to schedule a time to pick up your schools barrels.

Albertsons in Washington can provide cardboard totes for use in the classroom. Contact Mike Smith at 435-628-0424.

Washington County Schools can use dumpsters for paper provided by Rocky Mountain Recycling. Call JR at 435-628-9626 or visit their website listed above.

Beaver, Garfield, Iron, and Kane, County Schools will have to work with the SOP, janitors, PTAs and or parent volunteers to take the recycling to a local drop off area.

To make their programs more personal, teachers and or PTA volunteers can help students decorate their classroom recycling boxes and school recycling bins and can come up with hall passes – possibly lanyard or buttons students can wear when dumping the collected paper.

Incentive programs help to keep students motivated and engaged in their schools recycling program. Schools may want to include in their program incentives like having “Green” ribbons or trophies for outstanding recycling performance. A party could be held at the end of the year to celebrate how much they achieved through recycling. The

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SOP can possibly provide visits from Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl, and Lightfoot Squirrel as well as other land managers to educate and excite the children about recycling. This would have to be scheduled in advance and is subject to agency funding and availability.

Schools may want to consider recycling other items than paper; for instance Styrofoam lunch trays, cans, cardboard and other materials. Schools can also re-use paper by using areas that have not been printed on or the back side to cut waste in half again.

Schools may also want to encourage students to do “green” related science fair projects that focus on energy and water conservation, recycling, greenhouse gas, climate change and composting.

Send home the Go Green Pledge (pg. 8) so parents can get involved at home.

Record Keeping is vital and each school will need to find a representative to keep track of the pounds of recycling collected each week. Record keeping is helpful for providing incentive. The principal can announce on a regular basis the tally and can add some easy information about what this means (how many trees, fossil fuels, water, etc. saved through this process), thus the entire school will receive incentive to continue. An example of a record keeping sheet is available in this program guide. An Excel spreadsheet for record keeping is also available on the SOP website. The SOP would like copies submitted to them so we can keep track of numbers and statistics. This will be helpful when applying for grants and making further improvements and materials available to schools in the program. Download the record keeping sheets under the education and outreach tab on our website. One large garbage bag approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  full weighs roughly 65 pounds - which makes for easy tracking of weight. To involve students more with the program and to help them make a connection with their math lessons, they can weigh the recycling using a scale each week. The Green Team poster has the weights listed in pounds and students can easily track their own recycling, this motivates them to continue the program.

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## Take the Go Green Pledge

Choose new behaviors and save the planet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### I will help to conserve energy reducing greenhouse gases

- Turn off lights, computers, chargers and other electronics when not in use
- Use rechargeable batteries
- Select electronics that use energy saver features and replace incandescent lights
- Purchase Energy Star or other types of energy rated products
- Walk whenever possible
- Ride bikes or car pool
- Re-think transportation methods and use public transit whenever possible
- Take the stairs instead of using the elevator
- Set thermostats to below 70 in the winter and above 75 in the summer.
- Wash clothes in cold water and hang outside to dry on a clothes line.

### I will conserve water

- Don't leave the tap running
- Take shorter showers
- Report or fix leaks
- Use your dishwasher and washing machine for only full loads
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily
- Save water with low flow shower heads and other water saving products
- Use green cleaners
- Water lawn in the early morning only
- Zero scape instead of planting lawn

### I will eat smarter

- Choose locally grown, seasonal produce
- Buy local dairy and meat
- Buy organic, fair trade and plant based products to minimize abuse to the environment, people and animals
- Eat less meat and animal products

### I will waste less

- Reduce, Reuse, and then Recycle
- Use reusable mugs, glasses, dishes, and napkins
- Use reusable bags instead of plastic
- Double side all copies and print jobs
- Only print when necessary and use recycled paper
- Use email instead of the mail
- Pack lunches in reusable containers
- Buy products made from recycled materials
- Print drafts on the back side of used paper
- Make notepads from used paper
- Donate used equipment and furniture
- Compost organic materials
- Recycle plastic, paper, glass, aluminum, and cardboard
- Recycle disposable batteries
- Recycle toner cartridges and replace with recycled cartridges
- Use paper made from recycled materials
- Stop buying so much stuff and find other ways for entertainment like going outside
- Buy used
- Donate items to charities or thrift stores

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## Things Schools can do that go beyond recycling

- Fill out the Green School Report Card and set other goals for sustainability besides recycling.
- Focus on reducing trash output and creatively reusing items.
- Have students fill out pledge sheets with their parents to reduce, reuse and recycle at home.
- Encourage kids to use water fountains instead of bottled water or paper cups and teachers to use washable mugs and glasses instead of disposable.
- Encourage home lunches with reusable containers to cut down on trash.
- Hold aluminum can drives to make money for your green team program or a sustainability project like a tree planting.
- Have green tips included in your school newsletter.
- Hold teacher trainings/workshops to educate teachers on sustainability curriculum and climate change.
- Have a no idling policy to cut down on CO2.
- Start a composting programs and a school garden.
- Encourage kids to focus on water and energy conservation for their science fair projects and have a green ribbon award.
- Hold a swap shop around the holidays where kids can trade used clothes and toys instead of buying new.
- Encourage kids to stop buying “stuff” and find other ways to have fun – like getting outdoors.
- Have a re-use bin or table in your classrooms and try and cut down on throwing things away.
- Use both sides of a sheet of paper before throwing it away.
- Have the children write a letter to their mayor or newspaper regarding a sustainability topic. (like getting recycling back in Iron County)
- Encourage the library to have a green section with books on recycling, sustainability, the environment, watershed...
- Take advantage of local land agencies like the Forest Service and National Park Service’s education and outreach programs. See the SOP website for more information.

[www.southernutahsop.org](http://www.southernutahsop.org)

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## Green School Report Card

1. How Toxin-Free is your School? Has your School?
  - a. Switched to green cleaners certified by Green Seal or EcoLogo?
  - b. Implemented an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program and reduced pesticide use?
  - c. Chosen low-emitting paints, carpets, whiteboard markers, art supplies or other materials to improve indoor air quality?
  - d. Provided adequate ventilation (i.e. no strong smells in classrooms)?
  - e. Used air filters rated at or above MERV 11?
  - f. Prohibited smoking on campus and in public school buses
  
2. How sustainably does your school use energy and reduce carbon emissions? Has your school:
  - a. Switched to CFC or LED light bulbs?
  - b. Conducted an energy audit?
  - c. Implemented energy conservation measures for heating-ventilation-air-conditioning (HVAC), lighting, or computers?
  - d. Implemented a "Turn it off" campaign with students and staff (lights, printers, screens, copiers, etc.)?
  - e. Purchased energy efficient appliances or equipment?
  - f. Installed solar PV panels? Installed solar hot water?
  - g. Switched to biodiesel fuel, natural gas, or hybrid buses?
  - h. Promoted Safe Routes to School or other efforts to encourage walking, biking, carpooling, or public transportation to school?
  - i. Calculated its carbon footprint?
  
3. How sustainably does your school use water? Has your school:
  - a. Installed waterless urinals?
  - b. Stopped leaks?
  - c. Installed automatic faucets?
  - d. Installed drip and timed irrigation systems for landscaping?
  - e. Maintained working drinking water fountains?
  - f. Control water runoff with rain barrels or rain gardens?
  - g. Is the school's landscaping considered water-efficient and/or regionally appropriate?

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4. How sustainably does your school manage waste? Has your school:
  - a. Used reusable food ware at lunch?
  - b. Implemented an offer vs. serve approach in the cafeteria?
  - c. Promoted waste-free lunch days?
  - d. Recycled at lunch?
  - e. Recycled paper in classroom?
  - f. Recycled paper in office?
  - g. Composted organic food waste in worm bin, commercial facility, or other means?
  - h. Composted yard waste or used mulching mowers?
  - i. Switched to electronic communications or registration forms?
  - j. Set printers and copiers to default double-sided printing, or changed default margins?
  - k. Discouraged use of disposable plastic bottles?
  
5. How sustainable are your school's purchases? Has your school:
  - a. Purchased copy paper with recycled content?
  - b. Purchased school supplies (notebooks, folders, dividers) with recycled content?
  - c. Purchased office supplies with recycled content?
  - d. Purchased PVC-free office and schools supplies?
  - e. Purchased computers, appliances, refrigerators or equipment that are energy-efficient, with an Energy Star rating?
  - f. Purchased furniture with recycled content and low formaldehyde?
  - g. Purchased reusable, compostable or recycled content food service items?
  - h. Purchased rechargeable batteries? Adopted a green purchasing policy?
  
6. How green are your school buildings and schoolyards? Has your school:
  - a. Created an educational garden?
  - b. Received LEED or CHPS certification for newly planned or built schools?
  - c. Followed green building principles for new school construction?
  - d. Maintained a natural grass field?
  - e. Developed a creative play area?
  - f. Planted an edible garden and used the fresh food?
  - g. Installed outside seating?
  - h. Planted trees?
  - i. Installed safe playground equipment, with no arsenic-treated wood?

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7. How fresh is your school food? Has your school:
  - a. Offered a salad bar at lunch on any day or every day?
  - b. Used food from a school garden at lunch or in classroom?
  - c. Implemented a farm-to-school program to source fresh food from local farms?
  - d. Offered some organic food at lunch or snacks?
  - e. Banned soda and candy vending at school?
  
8. How does your school engage students in its greening efforts? Has your school:
  - a. Taught environmental education in at least one class or grade?
  - b. Taught environmental education at all grade levels?
  - c. Environmental and sustainability concepts are integrated into student assessments?
  - d. Offered outdoor or nature education?
  - e. Used a school garden for teaching?
  - f. Developed hands-on environmental projects in the local community?
  - g. Involved students in solving environmental problems at the school, such as a garbage audit or other activities?
  - h. Appointed students to the school's Green Committee?
  
9. How committed is your school to being green? Has your school:
  - a. Established a green team that includes parents, teachers, students, staff, and administrators?
  - b. Adopted a vision statement, school board policy or resolution?
  - c. Done environmental audit of school resource use?
  - d. Developed an action plan for greening?
  - e. Integrated hands-on student activities into curriculum?
  - f. Implemented a plan for monitoring resource use and progress on action plan?
  - g. Created opportunities to celebrate achievements and engage the wider community?
  
10. What is your green dream for your school? Open-ended question, please share your vision for sustainability at your school or something green you'd like to see your school do.

(The Green School Report Card comes from: <http://www.greenschools.net/form.php?modin=53>)

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